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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription

12/9/92

JAMES L. BYRNES, Administrative Law Judge, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, was interviewed by Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) DEAN POLALES and Special Agent (SA) KEVIN J. DEERY, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI) at the United States Department of Justice (DOJ), Room 5132, Washington, D.C. BYRNES was advised that this interview concerned INSLAW and the PROMIS COMPUTER SOFTWARE.

BYRNES provided the following background information. He graduated from the UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE LAW SCHOOL in 1977. From August, 1980 through May, 1981, he was the Executive Director of the REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE for Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. When United States Senator RICHARD SCHWEIKER became the Secretary of HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (DHHS), BYRNES became the Assistant to the DHHS Secretary for Special Programs from May, 1981 until 1983. From January, 1984 through June, 1986, BYRNES was employed at the OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT (OPM). BYRNES then became an Associate Assistant Deputy Attorney General (AADAG) at DOJ for Deputy Assistant Attorney General (DAAG) ARNOLD BURNS. In November, 1987, he transferred to the LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION of DOJ.

BYRNES advised that D. LOWELL JENSEN had departed from DOJ and was a federal judge in San Francisco, California when he joined DOJ. BYRNES never met JENSEN.

BYRNES did not have any knowledge of the dispute between INSLAW and DOJ prior to the news media coverage of the bankruptcy trial in 1987. BYRNES has a vague recollection of asking HARRY FLICKINGER about the INSLAW dispute when FLICKINGER dropped into his office on the way to a meeting with DAAG BURNS. BYRNES asked FLICKINGER what was the story on the INSLAW case. FLICKINGER responded that INSLAW was a contractor which had gotten in over its head and could not do the job. BYRNES did not have any additional discussions with anyone else at DOJ regarding INSLAW.

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He specifically did not have any conversations with DAAG BURNS regarding INSLAW.

BYRNES did not have any conversations with anyone regarding any alleged improper conduct on the part of DOJ officials with regards to the INSLAW contract.

BYRNES advised that he transferred to the LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION because he was very interested in Environmental Law and wanted to directly practice in a Line Division. BYRNES thought that the LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION used the AMICUS COMPUTER SYSTEM. He did not know what data bases were available to the LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION.

BYRNES did not know that he was named in an affidavit filed by WILLIAM HAMILTON of INSLAW. He was apprised of the following information; "a second informant who fears reprisal told INSLAW that JAMES L. BYRNES, a Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION with close ties to MEESE, spearheaded the award by DOJ in October, 1987 to a HADRON Subsidiary of a \$40 million computer services contract for litigation support in that Division".

BYRNES denied any knowledge of the awarding of this \$40 million computer services contract and does not know if such a contract was, in fact, awarded. BYRNES has no knowledge of HADRON, SIMCON or ACUMENICS. He does not know DOMINIC LAITI, PAUL WORMELI or MARYLEN TITUS.

BYRNES advised that he does recognize the name, Dr. EARL BRIAN, who was involved with the California medical health system. BYRNES would have been familiar with the name of Dr. BRIAN when he was employed at DHHS. However, BYRNES has never met Dr. BRIAN.

BYRNES denied that he has close ties with former United States Attorney General EDWIN MEESE. BYRNES was interviewed by DAAG ARNOLD BURNS and USAG MEESE when he was initially employed by DOJ. BYRNES was involved in personnel matters and often attended meetings where USAG MEESE was also present. BYRNES described USAG MEESE as being a friendly individual and BYRNES has used MEESE as a reference. BYRNES does not know if MEESE has been contacted as a reference for him.

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BYRNES has never had any discussions with MEESE regarding INSLAW or any personal relationship MEESE has with Dr. EARL W. BRIAN.